

Waiver Application Form
(Use District/School Letterhead & Logo)
(for use by a Local Education Agency or equivalent)

Please submit one application for each local educational agency or equivalent. If applying on behalf of a school district please submit one application for elementary schools in the district that are seeking to reopen for in-person instruction. If applying for an independent, private, faith-based, or charter school, please submit an application for each school.

Background Information

Name of Applicant (Local Educational Agency or Equivalent): Wheatland School District

Name of District/School: Wheatland School District

If this is a School District Consolidated Application Yes: No:
(Please list each school on a separate sheet)

School Type: Traditional Public School
 Charter School
 Private, Independent, or Faith-Based School

Number of schools: 4

Enrollment: 1285

Superintendent (or equivalent) Name: Craig Guensler

Address:

111 Main Street
 Wheatland CA 95692

Number of students and number of classes per grade proposed to be reopened:

TK	K	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
16	160	164	130	143	142	121	0

Date of Proposed Reopening: October 12, 2020

Name of Person Completing Application: Craig Guensler

Phone Number: (530) 633-3130

Email: cguensler@wheatland.k12.ca.us

Signature:

Date:

I. Consultation

Please confirm consultation with the following groups:

Labor Organization

Name of Organization(s) and Date(s) Consulted:

WESTA - Wheatland Elementary School Teachers Association

CSEA #626 - California School Educators Associations - Wheatland Chapter

WESS - Wheatland Elementary School Secretaries

Parent and Community Organizations

Name of Organization(s) and Date(s) Consulted:

Site Councils - Bear River, Wheatland Elementary and Lone Tree

DELAC

Beale AFB

If no labor organization represents staff at the school, please describe the process for consultation with staff:

II. Elementary School Reopening Plan

Please confirm that elementary school reopening plan(s) addressing the following, consistent with guidance from the California Department of Public Health and the local health department, have been published on the website of the local educational agency (or equivalent):

Cleaning and Disinfection: How shared surfaces will be regularly cleaned and disinfected and how use of shared items will be minimized.

Cohorting: How students will be kept in small, stable, groups with fixed membership that stay together for all activities (e.g., instruction, lunch, recess) and minimize/avoid contact with other groups or individuals who are not part of the cohort.

Entrance, Egress, and Movement Within the School: How movement of students, staff, and parents will be managed to avoid close contact and/or mixing of cohorts.

- Face Coverings and Other Essential Protective Gear:** How CDPH's face covering requirements will be satisfied and enforced.
- Health Screenings for Students and Staff:** How students and staff will be screened for symptoms of COVID-19 and how ill students or staff will be separated from others and sent home immediately.
- Healthy Hygiene Practices:** The availability of handwashing stations and hand sanitizer, and how their use will be promoted and incorporated into routines.
- Identification and Tracing of Contacts:** Actions that staff will take when there is a confirmed case. Confirm that the school(s) has designated staff persons to support contact tracing, such as creation and submission of lists of exposed students and staff to the local health department and notification of exposed persons. Each school must designate a person for the local health department to contact about COVID-19.
- Physical Distancing:** How space and routines will be arranged to allow for physical distancing of students and staff.
- Staff Training and Family Education:** How staff will be trained and families will be educated on the application and enforcement of the plan.
- Testing of Students and Staff:** How school officials will ensure that students and staff who have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 will be notified and what instructions they will be given while waiting for test results. Describe how staff will be tested periodically to detect asymptomatic infections.
- Triggers for Switching to Distance Learning:** The criteria the superintendent will use to determine when to physically close the school and prohibit in-person instruction.
- Communication Plans:** How the superintendent will communicate with students, staff, and parents about cases and exposures at the school, consistent with privacy requirements such as FERPA and HIPAA.
- School Website URL** where reopening plan and waiver are posted.
<https://www.wheatlandisd.cc>

Additional Resources:

CDPH and Cal/OSHA Guidance for Schools and School-Based Programs

<https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-schools.pdf>

California Department of Education Stronger Together: A Guidebook for the Safe Reopening of California's Public Schools

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/strongertogether.asp>

CDPH COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Learning Framework for K-12 Schools in California, 2020-2021 School Year

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Schools%20Reopening%20Recommendations.pdf>

For Internal Use Only

Date Received

Health Officer Review

Determination Date

Wheatland School District Waiver for In School Instruction

Grades TK through 5th grade

Schools and grade levels to be included in this waiver are as follows:

- Bear River School (4th – 8th grade School) Included in waiver are 4th and 5th Grades Only
- Wheatland Elementary School (TK – 3rd Grade) Included in Waiver are TK – 3rd Grades
- Lone Tree School (TK – 5th Grade) Included in Waiver are TK – 5th Grades
- Wheatland Charter Academy (Kdg – 5th Grade) Included in Waiver are Kdg – 5th Grades

Number of Students/classes to be included at each site:

- Bear River – 164 students/6 classes
- Wheatland Elementary School – 294 students/13 classes
- Lone Tree School – 324 students/14 classes
- Wheatland Charter Academy – 94 students/4 classes

Consultation with Parent/Community Groups

- Email, Website, Facebook Posts for all parents
- Consult with DELAC
- Consult with Beale AFB Liaison
- Consult with School Site Councils
- Consult with Yuba County Office of Education
- Consult with MJUSD, PLUSD, WUHSD, YCUSD
- Consult with SELPA

Consultation with Labor Organizations:

- WESTA – Wheatland Elementary School Teachers Association
- CSEA #626 – California School Employees Association – Wheatland Chapter
- WESS – Wheatland Elementary School Secretaries
- WSD Administration
- WSD Confidential Group

Waiver Plan Communication:

The Wheatland School District's Waiver In-Person School Reopening Plan is posted on the District Website. The Plan will also be available at all school sites. The plan has been shared with all stakeholders. The plan has been shared with the school board at multiple meetings.

Elementary School Reopening Plan Essential Components

1. Cleaning and Disinfecting:

The School District will follow all cleaning guidelines and protocols consistent with the Guidance provided through the California Department of Public Health and the Local Health Department.

Custodial Staff

- Custodial Staff have all been trained by the District Nurse on the specific symptoms of COVID-19
- Custodial Staff have been trained on proper cleaning techniques
- Custodial Staff have been provided proper PPE
 - Masks
 - Gloves
 - Face Shields
 - Hand Sanitizers
- Custodial Supplies include all products approved for use against COVID -19. The products are in line with those listed on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2
- Custodial Staff have been directed to follow all product instructions
- Custodial Schedules have been arranged to clean all bathrooms 4 times a day and all common areas multiple times a day. Classrooms are cleaned once a day
- All classrooms will be disinfected nightly including but not limited to desks, tables, chairs, counters, doorknobs, desk shields and trashcan
- Health rooms will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after any student/staff with symptoms of COVID-19 has been in there. They will not be used again until the disinfection process has been completed

HVAC Systems

The District has ordered and will have installed the GPS Bipolar Ionization Filtration systems. Every classroom, office, common room etc. will have the system installed. The GPS Bipolar Ionization Filtration System filters and kills 99.4% of all viruses including COVID – 19

Certificated/Classified Staff

- Certificated and Classified Staff have been provided proper PPE
 - Masks
 - Gloves
 - Face Shields
 - Hand Sanitizers

- Staff will have been educated on how to properly clean equipment such as one to one devices, desks, doorknobs, etc. between cohorts
- Staff will ensure students will not share desks, equipment or supplies on any given day. Any and all items that could be shared will be cleaned and disinfected between groups of children using the item
- Outdoor education set up will be prioritized as often as feasible
- All staff will be masked in the classrooms and common areas

Transportation

- Buses will be cleaned and disinfected as soon as all students exit the bus
- Handrails, seats and windows will be cleaned and disinfected
- As much as feasible drivers will use the same bus each day in the morning and afternoon
- Social Distancing on a bus is not possible so all riders and drivers will be required to wear a mask
- Windows on the buses will be opened to bring in as much fresh air as possible. This may mean it is cold at times or warm at times

2. Cohorting:

- To minimize the number of contacts students and staff are exposed to on a daily basis, students will be placed in the same grouping each day.
- Transitions will be minimal and should only be for those students requiring a specialized service such as Special Education or EL
- Recess and PE should be scheduled daily and should be set up in such a way that groups outside are limited to their cohorts only
- Breakfast/Lunch will be delivered and eaten in the classrooms. All students will be encouraged to eat the school breakfast and lunches
- Students will be served in small cohorts assigned to a specific desk
- Students will be 6 feet apart
- Students will be required to wear masks in 3rd grade and above and will be highly advised to wear a mask in grades TK – 2nd

3. Entrance, Egress and Movement Within the School:

- School Campuses will not be open to visitors and parent access will be limited to emergencies only
- Any student, parents, caregiver, staff member showing symptoms of COVID – 19 will be excluded from campus and sent home immediately
- An isolation health room has been set up at each site for any person exhibiting signs of COVID – 19

- Cohorts of students will be assigned a timeframe for arrival and departure and will enter and exit at those times
- Cohorts will be assigned specific entry points for school access
- Students will report directly to their specific classrooms upon arrival at the site. No playground will be open at unscheduled times
- Parents will be instructed and encouraged to remain in their vehicles and drop off students in the designated drop off zones only
- Recesses, PE and Breaks will be staggered to avoid congestion of the grounds and bathrooms
- Signs will be on campuses reminding students to social distance
- Restroom signs will be posted to:
- Limit entry of students to one at a time
- Limit the entry to the bathroom assigned to the classroom
 - Indicate where to wait
 - Remind students/staff to wash their hands and wear their masks
- Students will be reminded daily that they should avoid close contact or mixing with other students not in their specific classrooms

4. Face Coverings and Other Essential Protective Gear

- All students in TK through 2nd Grades will be strongly recommended to wear masks per the CDPH guidelines. If the student cannot wear a mask they will be encouraged to wear a face shield.
- All students in 3rd through 5th Grades will be required to wear facial coverings per CDPH guidelines
- **Students have all been provided a desk partition that will help add an additional barrier from other students. They are to be behind the partitions whenever they are at their desks**
- All staff will be required to wear facial coverings during the following times
 - While entering and exiting campus
 - While on School Grounds, except when eating or drinking
 - **Anytime they are going to be within 6 feet of a student or other staff member**
 - While on a school bus
 - When in any common area
- Cafeteria workers, health care staff and classified staff engaged in deep cleaning and disinfecting shall wear all required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- All sites have provided PPE to all staff and will have available back up masks in the event a staff member has forgotten theirs
- Students are encouraged to have their own cloth mask daily but sites will have a supply of disposable masks for students that are unable to provide their own.

- In 3rd through 5th grade and for all staff – Failure to wear the mandatory facial coverings on campus shall result in exclusion from the campus

5. Health Screenings for Students and Staff

Students

- Passive Screening will be used for students riding the bus and for entering the campuses. Parents will be provided with a COVID – 19 Symptoms Checklist and instructed to screen their child daily before leaving the home for school. Screening should include checking their child's temperature to ensure temperature is below 100.4 degrees
- Parents will be instructed to keep their child home if they have symptoms consistent with COVID – 19 or if they have been in close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID – 19.
- Students in close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID – 19 will need to quarantine for 14 days
- Teachers will be provided a touchless thermometer to check the temperatures of students if they see or suspect the student has symptoms consistent with COVID – 19
- Bus Drivers will be provided touchless thermometers to check the temperatures of students if they see or suspect the student has symptoms consistent with COVID – 19. No student will be left at a bus stop if the parent is not present
- Any student that has a temperature of 100.4 or higher or displays symptoms of COVID – 19 will be isolated at the site in the identified isolation room and parents will be contacted to pick up the student immediately and COVID – 19 testing will be recommended

Staff

- Passive Screening will be used for staff entering campus
- Staff has been provided with a COVID – 19 Symptoms Checklist and instructed to self-screen daily before leaving their home for work
- Screening protocols include staff taking their temperature to ensure temperature is below 100.4 degrees
- Staff has been instructed to stay home if they have symptoms consistent with COVID – 19
- Staff will begin to self-quarantine if they have been in close contact with a person that has been diagnosed with COVID – 19

6. Heathy Hygiene Practices

- All sites will implement routines to ensure personal health and safety practices including:
 - All students wash their hands upon entering campus
 - Students/staff will be instructed and reminded to wash and/or sanitize their hands after using the restroom
 - Students/staff will be instructed and reminded to wash and/or sanitize their hands before and after eating
 - Students/staff will be instructed and reminded to wash and/or sanitize their hands when entering the office or classrooms
 - Students/staff will be instructed and reminded to wash and/or sanitize their hands after taking off or putting on their mask/face covering
 - Students/staff will be instructed and reminded to wash and/or sanitize their hands after exposure to high touch areas
 - Students/staff will be instructed and reminded to wash and/or sanitize their hands before and after sharing PE equipment/balls
 - Students/staff will be instructed and reminded to wash and/or sanitize their hands before and after each task when preparing food in any class or in the cafeteria
- Classes will use video and print reminders on instruction for students in handwashing and other hygiene practices
- All staff were required to participate in the training provided to them by the District Nurse regarding COVID – 19
- All staff are required to complete the mandated annual training on Safe School Training

7. Identification and Tracing Contacts

Identification

- If a student or staff member shows any signs related to COVID – 19 while at school the following will be implemented:
 - Student will be sent to the isolation room on campus immediately. Teacher will notify office that student is on his/her way and has symptoms. If student needs assistance to isolation area, nurse or health aide will escort them to the isolation area.
 - Nurse or Health Aide will take the student's temperature and check the symptoms
 - If student has symptoms or a temperature they will remain in the isolation room and the parent will be contacted for immediate pick up and recommended for COVID Testing
 - The Nurse or Health Aide will follow up later in the day to see how the student is doing and to see if they went in for testing

- If a student or staff member has close contact with a confirmed COVID – 19 case the following will be implemented:
 - Student will be immediately sent to the isolation room on campus and sent home and testing will be recommended at day 5 - 8
 - Student will need to remain home and in self-quarantine for 14 days from the last close contact to the positive case
 - Staff will be sent home immediately and recommended to for testing
 - Staff will need to remain home on self-quarantine for 14 days from the last close contact to the positive case
 - Quarantine is 14 days from the last exposure to the positive case
 - Nurse or Health Aide will follow up with student or staff to make sure the 14-day quarantine is understood and calculated
- If a student or staff member has a confirmed case of COVID – 19 the following will be implemented:
 - Local Health Department will be notified by our District Nurse
 - Student or staff member will be excluded from school/work for 10 days from symptom onset if they have had 24 hours of no fever without the use of fever reducing medicine and symptoms have improved. If asymptomatic, 10 days from test date as long as no symptoms have been present.
 - Health Department or District Nurse will work directly with the infected individual for contact tracing
 - School staff will identify contacts at the school that they were within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes. Those individuals will be excluded and quarantined for 14 days after the last date close contact
 - We will recommend testing for all close contacts
 - We will isolate areas were the infected individual spent significant amount of time. We will wait 24 hours and then clean and disinfect the area where the COVID-19 positive individual spent significant time
 - If a teacher has a confirmed case it is likely that all students in that teachers' class will be sent home for the 14-day isolation period and the teacher will provide distance learning to his/her class

Tracing of Contacts

- The Wheatland School District has identified and had three staff members trained to serve as COVID–19 tracers
- The three trained individuals will be in charge of all district wide COVID–19 tracing
- All three were trained by Dr. Homer Rice from the Bi-County Public Health Department on contact tracing protocols
- The District Nurse is the lead tracer and our Liaison

- She will manage and support all tracing
- She will notify the exposed individuals
- She will keep the Superintendent informed
- She will create and maintain a database of exposed students and staff
- She will be the one that stays in contact with the local health department

8. Physical Distancing

- The following will be implemented in order to maximize physical distancing at our school sites:
 - Smaller Cohorts of students will be implemented to minimize the mixing of student groups and maximize physical distancing
 - Outdoor time will be assigned times and areas for PE, breaks and recesses to make sure there is no mixing of cohorts
 - Playground equipment will be closed so no sharing will take place
 - Increased Supervision will be implemented to increase the monitoring of the physical distancing
 - Breakfast and lunches will be served and eaten in the classrooms
 - Library Books will be delivered to the rooms and no classes will enter the library
 - Starting and ending times will be altered so that students arrive and leave by grade levels as to not clog the campus and keep students from being in each other's space
 - Desk Configuration will be set up to allow six feet of physical distance between students
 - Desk Partitions will be supplied and used by all students to keep them within their own desk space
- The following will be implemented for Transportation:
 - Students with Disabilities will be transported per their IEP
 - Students living by the lake, in Smartsville and in the country will be transported as necessary. Keeping students as far apart as possible on the buses and windows open at all times
 - Students and staff will wear face coverings on the bus at all times unless they have a doctor's note for a known health condition or their disability prevents them from doing so
 - Parents will be encouraged to drop their children off and pick them up instead of riding the buses
 - Parents will be encouraged to have their child walk to school if they live close to the school
 - Siblings will be required to sit together

- Students will be seated from the rear of the bus to the front of the bus to prevent walking past each other
- Students will exit from the front of the bus to the rear of the bus to prevent walking past each other
- Students are not to stand in the aisle while waiting to exit the bus. The driver will indicate which rows can exit and when
- Afternoon School runs home will be loaded based on which students exit the bus. First stops will be at the front of the bus but will load the bus last. Last stops will be at the back of the bus and load first

9. Staff Training and Family Education

Staff Training

- Training has been and will continue to be provided on proper use, removal and washing of cloth face coverings
- Staff have been trained on Symptoms of COVID – 19, what to look for with students and other staff and how to stay as safe as they can during this pandemic
- Staff have participated in mandated workers comp trainings
- Staff have been given protocols and/or charts and flyers on the following areas
 - Physical Distancing of 6 feet
 - Mandatory use of facial coverings
 - Proper Hygiene and hand washing
 - Enhanced sanitation practices
 - Use of symptom screening checklist
 - COVID – 19 Symptoms Checklist

Family Education

- Families will be provided with information and training on the following topics:
 - Proper use of PPE
 - Use of the symptom screening Checklist
 - Transmission prevention
 - Social Distancing
 - Use of Facial Coverings
 - Frequent and adequate handwashing/sanitizing
 - Keeping their child home when they are not feeling well or have any symptoms of COVID-19

10. Testing of Students and Staff

Student Testing

- Students who have COVID–19 symptoms or have been exposed to someone with a confirmed case of COVID–19 will be isolated immediately and sent home. The following recommendations will be made to the parent/guardians:
 - Testing will be recommended through
 - personal health care provider
 - OptumServe No-Cost Testing (888) 634-1123
 - Students will be instructed to self-quarantine for 14 days after they were last exposed to the infected person
 - School based close contacts will be identified and instructed to self-quarantine for 14 days since the last contact and testing will be recommended

Staff Testing

- Staff who have COVID – 19 symptoms or have been exposed to someone with a confirmed case of COVID – 19 will be isolated immediately and sent home. The following recommendations will be made:
 - Testing will be recommended through
 - personal health care provider
 - OptumServe No-Cost Testing (888) 634-1123
 - Staff will be instructed to self-quarantine for 14 days after they were exposed to the infected person
 - School based close contacts will be identified and instructed to self-quarantine for 14 days since the last contact and testing will be recommended

Staff Testing Periodically

- Currently there is no testing available to do surveillance testing of staff. This would allow the periodic testing of staff for asymptomatic infections. According to the local health department this is not something we can currently do with staff. It is cost prohibitive and finding a lab to do this in our local area is problematic

11. Trigger for Switching to Distance Learning

- The Wheatland School District would switch back to Distance Learning when the following occurs:

- Schools shall revert back to distance learning when multiple cohorts have cases of five (5) percent of students and staff test positive within a 14-day period
- The District shall revert back to distance learning when 25 percent or more of our schools have been physically closed due to COVID – 19 within a 14-day period
- Closure decisions or reverting back to Distance Learning will be made in consultation with the Bi-County Health Officer, but the final decision to revert back to Distance Learning for a school(s) or the District will be made by the District Superintendent and School Board
- After 14 days of closure, the District will return to in-person instruction with the approval of the Bi-County Health Officer

12. Communication Plan

The District Superintendent will be open and honest in the communication with the families and staff about the cases and exposures at the schools. This will be done with all privacy requirements such as FERPA and HIPAA. The District will make sure that when sharing needed information that the individual names are not used.

13. School Website URL

<https://www.wheatlandisd.com/>